

# Friends of Suai/Covalima



Newsletter June 2022

## Scholarship graduation

Graduation ceremonies are such a fantastic opportunity to celebrate each student's success and at Baucau Teachers College, students are fortunate to have two!

In March 2022, a graduation ceremony was held for students who had successfully undertaken the three-year Bachelor of Teaching and for those who had completed the fourth-year Licentiate (post-graduate) qualification.

This photo shows Agusta (*left*) and Octaviana (*right*) graduating with the Licentiate. Elisa (*centre*) has successfully completed three years of study and is now underway with her post-grad studies. She has recently completed a three-month practical placement at Debos Primary School in Suai.

We wish all graduates the very best with their future careers.



*Photos: Elisa in the classroom during her placement at Debos Primary School in Suai; Two scholarship recipients learning to prepare meals as part of the Certificate II in Hospitality at Canossian Vocational Training Centre in Suai.*

## Scholarship student placements

'Real-life' practical experience is an important part of learning in many vocational and tertiary training courses. FoSC scholarship recipients have been doing a range of practical placements this year.

Two students in their second year, and two students in their third year of study at Baucau Teachers College are currently doing six week placements at schools in Baucau and Covalima districts.

Another student is doing a Certificate I in motorbike mechanic training at Senai Becora and has recently started a one month practical placement. Two students completing a Certificate II in Hospitality at the vocational training centre in Suai are also currently doing a short placement to gain practical skills.

Practical placements prepare students for employment and there have been some great outcomes for students. Two recent graduates from Baucau Teachers College are now employed at Primary Schools in Covalima district and two students who completed a Certificate II in Hospitality in 2021 were offered employment in Dili and Suai.



*Photos: Gaining practical skills to build, maintain and prepare motorbikes at Senai Becora;  
Students at Bacau Teachers College develop and share ideas for teaching practice.*

## Nurses finalising their post-grad studies

Since 2016, seven young women have received FoSC scholarships to study nursing at the National University in Dili. They have completed three years of nursing training and are now in the process of finishing their post-grad studies to specialise in Midwifery. Five of the students have had their research topics approved and are underway with completing their theses. They are doing their best to finalise everything and graduate this year. Two students are in the process of preparing their research topics and proposals.

The pandemic has caused significant delays to the completion date for these students, but we are encouraging them to finish and supporting them with the costs of their studies. They are motivated and very keen to share news of their completion and graduation this year.

## With One Seed (WoS) reforestation program

The WoS program has continued to expand in Tilomar sub-district, with more nursery space built and more trees planted this year. In April 2022, a further 26,600 mahogany trees have been distributed, bringing the total number of planted trees to more than 43,000. The WoS team will continue to monitor their progress and provide training and support to the farmers who now own and maintain the trees.

We are committed to financially supporting this fantastic long-term initiative which will generate income for the tree owners for many years to come. Money raised by FoSC will fund the annual farmer tree payments later this month; with each farmer receiving 50 cents for each surviving tree that was planted in 2020 and 2021.

We are delighted that this year the European Union has announced the launch of their 'Rai Matak' (Green Lands) program, which will be funding the expansion of this fantastic reforestation project in new areas of Timor-Leste.



Photos: Mahogany seedlings in the nursery;  
Community members in Tilomar at the launch of the Rai Matak 'Green Lands' program

## Support our programs:

The programs delivered in Suai are funded through community donations and we need your help!

Donations can be made via the following methods:

- Direct deposit into our Commonwealth Bank account. Acct Name: Friends of Suai Donations BSB: 063 243 Account Number: 1034 3552 (*Preferred method*)
- On-line via the Friends of Suai Covalima Give Now webpage: <https://www.givenow.com.au/foscships>
- A cheque payment to **City of Port Phillip** sent to Friends of Suai Covalima, City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, St Kilda Vic 3182

We are grateful for any amount that you can contribute. Thank you!